



Tallil Times

IN BRIEF

Air Force PT Uniform

Per the 407th AEG commander, everyone who wears the new Air Force PT gear outside tent city, including visits to the DFAC, are not required to wear a reflective belt.

2004 W-2 Available

2004 W-2s are now available online for all current myPay military users.

Reflective Belts

Air Force personnel assigned to the 407th AEG must wear their reflective belts when outside Tent City during hours of darkness or reduced visibility. This includes uniforms or civilian dress. Personnel who need reflective belts should contact their unit's supply representative.

No Baby Wipes In Latrines

The 407th Civil Engineering Squadron's Utilities Shop is requesting that people who use the latrines here in Tallil refrain from using baby wipes in the facilities. Flushing the material down the drains causes severe problems with the wastewater distribution system and lagoons. Please remember to toss used baby wipes into a trash container after use.

407 AEG Coins For Sale

The 407th Top Three has a limited number of 407th AEG coins for sale. Each piece features full-color artwork representing the Air Force unit deployed here to Tallil, and has beveled edges and enamel coating. The coins are available from any Top Three officer for only \$5 each while supplies last.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jack Hartman or Airman 1st Class Christopher Fochs

A Fire Flight mission returns with injured personnel.

Firefighters saving lives in Iraq

By Master Sgt. Terry J. Nelson

407th AEG Public Affairs

January 21, was like any other typical day at Tallil for Staff. Sgt. Jack Hartman and Airman 1st Class Christopher Fochs, fire fighters assigned to the 407th Civil Engineer Squadron. They arrived at work early in the a.m., performed their morning details, and decided to break for lunch around noon at the dining facility.

Fire fighting is one those career fields, that if you are not at the station, you have the pleasure of lugging around a radio, and today was no exception for Sergeant Hartman and Airman Fochs.

Shortly after arriving at the DFAC, the call came across the net from the alarm center dispatch that there had been an accident off-base and they were calling for a Fire Flight.

A Fire Flight is a medical emergency, requiring the dispatch of an Army "MEDIVAC" UH-60 Helicopter, assigned to the 50th Medical Unit.

The two fire fighters, who are part of the base's Fire Flight Team, immediately head for the station to ready themselves for the possible Fire Flight mission. The firefighter's main mission on

a Fire Flight is extrication, getting trapped victims out of wrecks. They use a specially designed "backboard" to transport their extrication equipment, including a battery powered, "jaws of life," crowbar, ax and other miscellaneous tools. They are fastened to the "backboard" for loading onto the helicopter.

While the fire fighters ready themselves for flight, telephone calls are being made between the fire chief, civil engineering squadron commander, command post and to the 407th AEG commander.

The AEG commander is the authorizing authority for all Air Force personnel who are required to leave the base. Once Col. Diggett gives the OK, the Fire Flight Team heads for the chopper.

With all required extrication equipment aboard, the fire fighters board the UH-60 helicopter for transport to the accident scene. Although the firefighters have rescue certification and some are certified Emergency Medical Technicians, there is usually a flight nurse aboard the flight

Commander's Corner

By Capt. Sharon Phillips

407th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron

The 407 Expeditionary Contracting Squadron welcomes the new 407th crew. We look forward to working with you! Our mission is to: *provide contracting support to Coalition Forces through the rapid and responsive award and management of commodities, services, and construction contracts in a legal, ethical and cost effective manner.*

Your ECONS procures everything from the furniture used to support the more than 1300 members in tent city and on the job, to the gym equipment scattered throughout Muscle Beach.

We also purchase the night vision equipment used to enhance the security forces capability, to the lifesaving emergency medical items and well as the renovation projects that continually enhance our working environment at Tallil, to the services that keep the base operational, ECONS does it all.

A typical stateside contracting office is staffed with 40 members; the 407th AEG ECONS operates with an office of 6 personnel, supporting the unique missions of Coalition Forces in the AOR.

Just as safety and force protection are heightened in a deployed environment, so should education and training. In order to provide the most "rapid" and "responsive" support to meet your needs, finance and contracting will be holding Resource Advisor and Form 9 training to designated AEF 3 & 4 personnel.

Cradle-to-grave acquisitions begin with the customer defining a requirement, and do not end until the product or service is delivered, and the vendor is paid. We strive to be there every step of the way.

The ECONS webpage will list a "Customer Top 5", by organization. This provides our customers a real-time account (i.e. certified PR # for tracking purposes, date ECONS received the Form 9 with certified funds, date awarded, and status on delivery) of the "hot items" as deemed by squadron commanders.

ECONS strives continually to support you. In an effort to maintain steady relationships, our squadron is organized to provide one-on-one customer focus. We encourage your calls, e-mails, and visits; together we will accomplish the mission!

Your new ECONS personnel and respective customers are; Staff Sgt. Pierre-Louis, ECES; Staff Sgt. Coleman, Group (*Staff Judge Advocate, Chaplain, Safety, PA, Finance, ATFP, Command Post*), ESVS, ESFS; Master Sgt. McKeon, Renovations, OSI; Tech. Sgt. Jacobs, 777, ELRS, OESS; Tech. Sgt. Crespo, ECS, PERSCO.

Tallil Talks ... How is your tour at Tallil going so far?



Airman 1st Class
Karen Adado,
407th AEG Command
Post:
"Its been magically
delicious."



Tech. Sgt.
Jeffrey Anglo,
407th AEG staff:
"It has been an awesome
experience. There has
been some interesting
events and I am looking
forward to more
challenges."



Tech. Sgt. Greg
Volkman,,
407th AEG Chapel:
"Great! A lot better than I
expected."



Airman 1st Class
Chrisma Lopes,
407th ECS:
"Fantastic! Everyone here
is very nice, easy going
and great to work with.
The apple pie at the DFAC
is awesome."



The Tallil Times

EDITORIAL STAFF

Col. Dennis M. Diggett
Commander, 407th AEG

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Editor/Chief, Public Affairs

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Deadline for publication is 2 p.m. Thursday before the week of publication. For more information, call 445-2002, or e-mail the staff.



OPSEC... what you need to know

By Staff Sgt. Will Horton

CENTAF Forward Information Warfare Flight

The recent and ongoing arrival of the Air and Space Expeditionary Force 3/4 rotation is a good time to review a number of operational security issues.

Practicing good OPSEC can and does save lives. It's imperative that we always be aware of our surroundings and never discuss operational information over unsecured communications. It is everyone's responsibly to be familiar with the critical information list. The CIL provides guidance on information that should not be discussed over unsecured communications.

Each phone should have a CIL attached to or near it. If your workspace doesn't have one, the CENTAF Forward Information Warfare Flight can provide you with one.

With the advances in technology, we need to consider both the traditional OPSEC problem set such as phones, e-mails, radios and such, and now, with the rampant use of the Internet, OPSEC considerations also include bloggings, home pages and chat rooms.

Sometimes it can be the simple things we don't think about that create an OPSEC issue, for example: that great picture of a flight line or secure compound at sunset may be a

wonderful contrast of color and shape we want to share with family and friends, but to the adversary it provides a view into our operations and identifies potential vulnerabilities.

A story written to your hometown newspaper's Web page or posted on a personal Web site needs to be coordinated through Public Affairs. The people we talk to in a chat room may not be friends, not to mention others can monitor the chat very easily without us knowing it. PA performs a security review to ensure you are not releasing anything that should not be posted or released for public consumption.

As military members, we often use electronic tools to communicate with family members back home, but we need to remember that any information we send across the Internet is readily available to any and everyone. Our electronic communications can and will be subject to exploitation. While e-mail and the Web are good ways to stay in contact with family and friends, remember to never discuss operational information over unsecure communications.

If we don't practice good OPSEC, we give the adversary an inside look into our sensitive operations and jeopardize the mission!

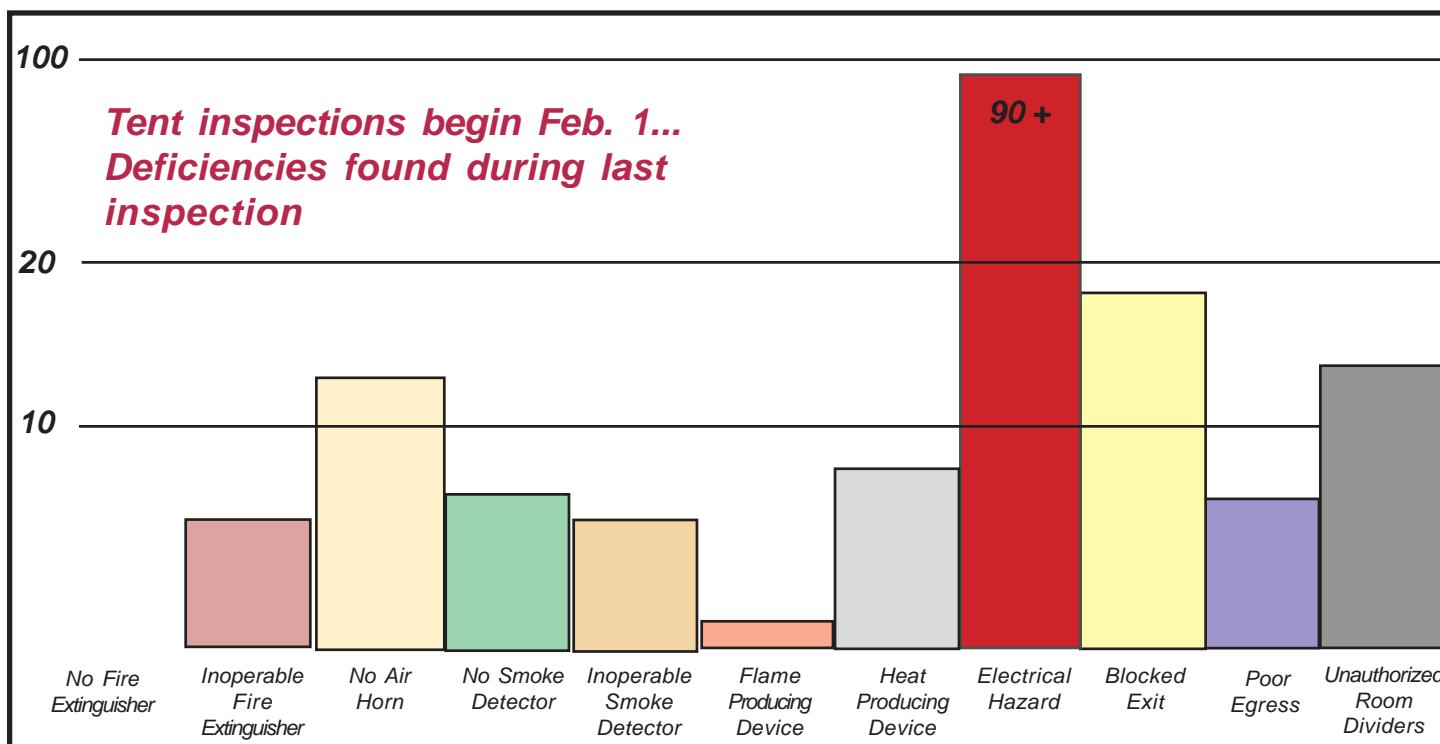
Always keep in mind the enemy has the proven capability to exploit both our unse-

cured telephone calls and e-mails. They pour over the Internet looking for information to exploit continuously. Here's some helpful tips: if you need to discuss operational information, go secure; if in doubt, go secure; if the person you need to talk to cannot go secure on their phone, tell them to find another way to pass the message.

Another thing to remember is to never talk around the issue. It may not seem like it, but talking around issues gives away much more information than you realize. It's vital you maintain situational awareness.

If you are working in an area that deals with operational or classified information and you receive or make a call on an unsecured line, yell "Phones up!" This will alert anyone in your area to stop discussing anything classified or sensitive, so the person — or anyone monitoring the conversation — on the other end of the unsecured phone does not gather any potentially damaging information. If you are discussing operations and you hear "Phones up!" immediately cease your conversation until the unsecured phone is hung up.

These little tips will help ensure a great OPSEC posture and keep you and your fellow Airmen, Soldiers, Marines and Sailors alive and safe. If you have questions or need a CIL card, contact the IWF at 318-436-3051.



Does a deployment equate to a Decoration?

By Chief Master Sgt. Mark Parrish

407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Most of the Air Expeditionary Force 3 & 4 rotation has arrived and we are getting into a routine.

Before long, you will be sitting at the PAX terminal awaiting your flight home. Will there be a decoration waiting for you when you arrive home? The answer is yes and no.

If you are deployed to Iraq for more than 30 consecutive days you more than likely will qualify for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. Weather or not you receive any additional decoration will depend on you and your performance. How many times have you heard someone say "My supervisor did not take care of me, I did not get a decoration when I left there?" Supervisors do not "give" decorations, troops earn them.

So, who is the approval authority and what performance indicators determine whether or not you qualify for a decoration?

The Commander, United States Central Command Air Forces (COMUSCENTAF) has been designated by the Air Force Chief of Staff as the Air Force approval and recommending authority for all Air Force awards presented in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, and IRAQI FREEDOM and related USCENTAF operations.

COMUSCENTAF's intent is to recognize any deserving individual with an appropriate award for exceptional service in support of OSW, OEF, and OIF. Each individual submission should be based on what that individual did, how well they did it, and what level of impact they had on mission success. While position and span of control often factor into this decision, these should not be the only determining factor behind which decoration is recommended.

Ask yourself three questions about your tour and the answer should become clear if your deployment warrants a decoration.

- 1) What did I do?
- 2) How well did I do it?
- 3) What level of impact did I have on mission success?

What did I do is a simple one.

If you simply showed up to work on time every day, but did little else, the answer to this one is nothing. If you excelled in our duties, enhanced operations and had a positive impact on mission accomplishment, the answer to the first question is; you are a third of the way to earning a decoration for your deployment.

Question two, how well did you do it?

Ask yourself if you did just what was expected or did you go above and beyond. Were you out front leading your section or work area? Were you someone that leadership could count on to get things done right? Were you given those "tough" jobs or details? Did you put forth the extra effort to get things done, and have a positive effect on your fellow troops? If you answered yes to these questions, then you are now two thirds on the way to your decoration.

Last but not least, what level of impact did you have on mission success?

Obviously, the group commander is in a position to have a greater mission impact than an Airman 1st Class. This is something you cannot control; however, all Airmen have the opportunity to have a direct positive impact towards the mission they are assigned. The answers to these questions should give you an indication of weather or not you've earned a decoration.

Does this make the award automatic?

No. Other circumstances must also be considered. Did any disciplinary actions occur while you were here? We are not a one strike service, but what the punishment was for and who issued it may have a huge impact on the decoration decision process.

Does everyone TDY deserve a medal?

If they do, leadership will fight for all of them. If only a few deserve the award recognition, then leadership will fight for those few.

The key here is integrity of the system. Too many times group awards have been submitted for the masses while not everyone went above and beyond normal duty.

While it is important to award decorations to deserving individuals, awarding decorations to people that did not earn them derogates the significances of the decorations awarded. I encourage leadership at all levels to not allow this to happen.

With this being said, ask your self again "Did I go above and beyond and can I answer yes to the questions discussed above?" If you can, then a decoration is probably being written for you. If your answer is no, then you are probably correct in the assumption you do not deserve a deployment decoration.

This article is based a previous piece written by —SMSgt Russell, Fire Chief, AEF 9 & 10. Thanks SMSgt Russell, your legacy continues at Tallil Air Base.



AROUND YOUR AIR FORCE

Access the Tallil Times on Air Force Link

Family and friends can view the most current issue of the Tallil Times on Air Force Link.

Open up Air Force Link's main page at www.af.mil and

then click on the Library link located in the center of the red header. Then click on the newspapers link, which is on the left hand side of the page about a third of the way down. This will take you to a list of all Air Force newspapers. The Tallil Times can be found in the far left-hand corner of the page.



Air Force tent city fire inspection

By Tech Sgt. Walter Wright

407th ECES Fire Prevention

The Ali Base Fire & Emergency Services Flight would like to welcome all newly assigned personnel. We look forward to accomplishing the mission with you. Our primary goal here at Ali Base will be to protect lives and property from loss of fire.

Your families are counting on you to return home safely from this deployment so please don't let your guard down when it comes to fire safety. It is your responsibility!!

We will be performing tent city fire inspections in the first week of February along with your First Sergeant and the group safety office. Here are a few tips to help start your Fire Prevention Program.

Ensure that your...

Tent number is displayed in obvious exterior location, this will enable us to find your tent faster as well as let someone report the location of the fire or incident.

Fire extinguisher are readily available and in an obvious location and accessible location.

Air horn is readily available and in an obvious and accessible location.

Operable smoke alarm installed in upper half of tent. Test smoke detectors weekly!

No candles, incense or other flame producing devices.

No heat producing devices to include: microwaves, coffee makers, irons or hot plates, the plywood porches are considered part of the tent.

No two-prong extension cords and no alterations of electrical cords allowed (i.e., cutting off the grounding plug on a 3-prong cord).

No overloaded electrical circuits. No extension cords used as permanent wiring. Fuse protected power strips may be used, one piggy back allowed from tent power strip.

Rear exits not blocked nor tied closed.

Egress paths at least 36 inches wide.

Reasonable housekeeping measures which reduce potential fuel for fire.

No vinyl or plastic shower curtains used as room dividers, fabrics OK.

No Christmas type lights inside.



Courtesy Photo

Tying the rear exit of a tent closed is prohibited, like the tent above. The rear exits of tents cannot be blocked and must have a 36 inch path for exit.

Wooden interior walls no higher than 6 feet tall; interior doors must have at least 30" clearance; exit doors must have a minimum of 36" clearance; all doors must open outward.

Light bulbs must be no larger than 60

watt, and must have a bulb guard installed. Bulbs must be kept a safe distance from all surfaces.

If you have any question regarding your Fire Prevention Program please contact Tech Sgt. Walter Wright at 445-2079.



Courtesy Photo

Everyone's tent must remain clean, not like the one shown above. Dirty tents are a fire hazard and are prone to attract rodents and insects.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jeff Andrejick

This vehicle accident occurred in September 2004 on Perimeter Road. The driver of the 5-ton truck was driving at an excessive speed when the truck flipped, pinning one occupant under the vehicle. The Airman sustained serious injuries and was pinned under the truck for more than an hour. No one in the truck was wearing a seat belt.

We have met the enemy and he is us

By Major Rob Reed

407th AEG Chief of Safety

When I was growing up, my grandfather used to tell me to “learn from the mistakes of others, because you won’t live long enough to make them all yourself.” That statement can be taken literally... You **won’t live** long enough to make them all yourself and your first mistake, might very well be your last.

The process of natural selection will cull those from the herd that disregard the caution and warning signs posted by those that came before and clearly point toward personal disaster.

Unfortunately, I have seen Air Force folks ignoring the huge, blinking, day-glo orange warning signs and jump with both feet into the natural selection line because it appears to be more expedient.

The latest line forming in the natural selection process is to load up in the back of a pickup bed with folks sitting on the wheel wells, against the tailgate and even up on the top edge of the truck bed.

Please see the first paragraph about “learning from other’s mistakes.” I am about to tell you a one mistake story that involves

riding in the back of a truck. This story is a lesson you won’t have to learn through your own experience, or you can choose to ignore it and join the others in the natural selection line.

Without trying to sound too much like your mother, I suggest you take it as a lesson learned by others and use it to ensure you and your troops return home safely.

Last summer at home station, a group of high school teenagers were riding around in a pickup truck in the neighborhood next to mine.

The driver was hauling around a few people in the bed of the truck as well as the cab. The group had made several stops before arriving in the adjacent neighborhood at the home of one of the boys. As two of the boys went to get out of the bed of the truck, the driver goosed the gas messing around with the two boys in the back that were trying to get out. When the driver did this a second time, one of the boys was near the tailgate. The momentum of the truck moving forward and the boy’s proximity to the tailgate, caused his legs to go out from under him as he hit the tailgate about knee

high. The young man, unable to stop himself, went over the back of the tailgate head first. The tailgate of the truck was about 4 feet off the ground and the young man hit the pavement head first unable to catch himself with his arms. He got up and appeared to be okay, it took less than 10 minutes for the severity of the internal head trauma to surface. He began to have seizures and after a couple of minutes he completely stopped breathing. By the time the ambulance arrived and took the young man to the nearest hospital, it was too late, he was pronounced dead at the hospital emergency room.

It is tragic that this young man lost his life in such a senseless manner, but I share this story with you in the hope that you will understand the dangers that are present, even in something as innocuous as riding in the bed of a truck.

Commanders, First Sergeants, and supervisors can remind us daily to think before we act. Ultimately, it is the decision of the individual that will determine if another sign is posted as a warning to others, that at one time we were here, but we chose poorly.

Tallil receives record rainfall

Tallil Air Base surpassed a 2 year climatological record for maximum precipitation in a 24-hour period over the weekend with 1.6 inches recorded. The previous record for Tallil was 1.14 inches.

The 407th EOSS Weather Flight was right on when they predicted, a week out, that the base would receive a little more than 1.5 inches of rain.

All the rain left the base with standing water, flooding and muddy conditions.



Photos by Master Sgt. Terry Nelson

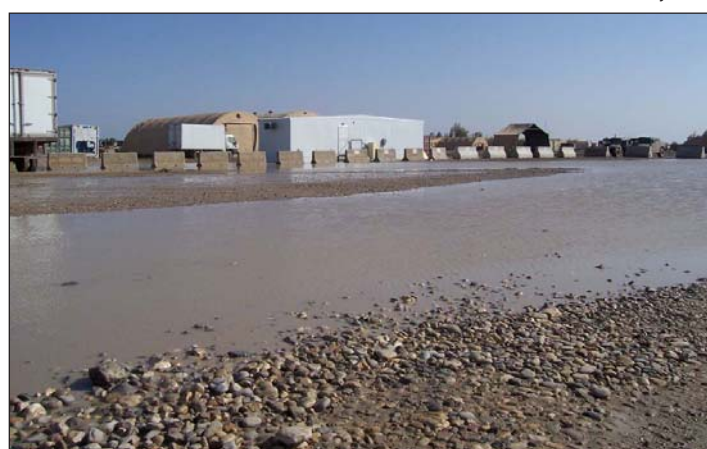


Courtesy Photo



Water piled up around Tallil after heavy rain Friday and Saturday. The aftermath is shown at the Burger King/ Pizza Hut facility (Top), the Hot Spot (Left Above) and the Pass and ID office (Bottom Right). The rain hasn't dampened the spirits of fire department personnel who were seen fishing after the most recent storm, and catching some rays after a previous rain storm. (Bottom Left and Middle Right)

Photo by Major Rob Reed



407th AEG Warrior of the Week SSgt Shaun Trotman



Unit: 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron

Home unit: 463rd Aircraft Maintenance Sq., Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Why other warriors say he's a warrior:

Staff Sgt. Trotman troubleshot a failed engine start to a faulty ignition relay. He replaced the component in half the job standard ensuring the critical OIF re-supply mission. He ram-rodged maintenance on the newly assigned 23 AS aircraft. His diligent work efforts guaranteed mission ready assets a full 48 hours ahead of DIRMBOFOR taskings.

What is your most memorable Air Force experience:

Being a part of history in the deployments to the AOR.

Identify This



KNOW WHAT THIS IS? Each week, the "Tallil Times" staff takes a photo from around Tallil AB. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at: tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil. with "Identify This" in the subject block. The winner receives a prize and gets their name printed in the Tallil Times. Congratulations to Staff Sgt. Patrick McNeal for correctly identifying the photo in last week's newspaper of the padlock.

Wild Iraqi Safari

Bedbugs



Your grandmother may have told you to "Sleep tight, don't let the bedbugs bite", but did she ever tell you what bed bugs are?

Bedbugs are insects that feed exclusively on bird and mammal blood. There are several species of bed bugs that feed on human blood. The most common is *Cimex lectularis*, the "human bedbug", which is found all over the world. Before WWII, bed bugs were very common in homes throughout the United States. The discovery of DDT and other pesticides dramatically reduced bed bug numbers, but as pest control practices have changed bed bug populations have again increased.

Bedbugs are reddish brown, about 3/8 of an inch long with a flattened oval shape. They feed at night, and people do not normally feel them biting. Some people react to bedbug bites with small itchy welts, but others show no reaction at all – even when bitten hundreds of times.

During the day, bedbugs hide in and around beds, in the mattress, box springs, sheets, or in the cracks of furniture. Control of a bed bug infestation requires the careful use of pesticides. Bedbugs can survive more than a year without feeding, so you can't starve them out. Bedbugs do not fly, so they move from place to place via luggage, bedding or furniture. If you ever suspect you might have bedbugs while on a deployment or in base housing or billeting, contact your Public Health Office immediately.

The only good thing about bedbugs is that, despite their blood-feeding, research has proven them unable to transmit any diseases to humans - not HIV, hepatitis, malaria, Lyme disease or any others.

Column courtesy of Maj. Sharon Spradling, 407th Leishmaniasis Surveillance and Investigation Team. Photo by Senior Airman Matthew Hulke, 407th EMDG.

OUT AND ABOUT



Worship services

Worship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Oasis of Peace Chapel, unless otherwise noted. The chapel is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection. For details on worship opportunities, call 445-2006.

Sunday

8 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass
9:30 a.m. Traditional Protestant service
10 a.m. LDS service at the Army's Religious Activity Center
12:30 p.m. Air Force/Army Gospel service in the Big Top
6 p.m. Contemporary choir rehearsal
7 p.m. Contemporary worship service

Monday

6 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass
6:30 p.m. Gospel service prayer time in the chapel resource trailer
7:30 p.m. Gospel choir rehearsal in the Big Top

Tuesday

7 p.m. Right of Christian Initiation of Adults in the Conference Room
7:15 p.m. Bible Book Study
8 p.m. Christian Discipleship Study, call Warrant Officer Russ Ramos at 445-2054 for details.

Wednesday

5 p.m. Catholic Choir rehearsal
6 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

Thursday

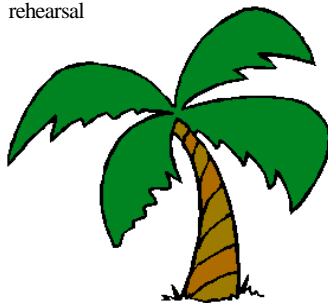
6:30 p.m. Catholic choir rehearsal
7 p.m. Right of Christian Initiation of Adults in the Conference Room
7 p.m. LDS study in the Army Religious Activity Center
7:45 p.m. Gospel service Bible study

Friday

11:45 a.m. Islamic prayer at the RAC, call 833-1154 for info
6 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass
7:30 p.m. Gospel choir rehearsal

Saturday

6 p.m. Vigil Mass
7 p.m. Contemporary choir rehearsal



Words from the chapel

I was shocked, confused, bewildered as I entered Heaven's door.

Not by the beauty of it all, by the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven who made me sputter and gasp -- the thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics, the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade who swiped my lunch money twice.

Next to him was my old neighbor who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought was rotting away in hell, was sitting pretty on cloud nine, looking incredibly well.

I nudged the angel, "What's the deal? I would love to hear Your take. How'd all these sinners get up here? God must've made a mistake.

And why's everyone so quiet, so somber? Give me a clue." "Hush, child," said he. "They're all in shock. No one thought they'd see you."



Today

Noon, Taxi
 8 p.m., Taxi
 Midnight, Taxi

Saturday

Noon, Friday Night Lights
 8 p.m., Friday Night Lights
 Midnight, Friday Night Lights

Sunday

Noon, Flight of the Phoenix
 8 p.m., Flight of the Phoenix
 Midnight, Flight of the Phoenix

Monday

Noon, Cellular
 8 p.m., Cellular
 Midnight, Cellular

Tuesday

Noon, Viewers Choice
 8 p.m., Johnson Family Vacation
 Midnight, Johnson Family Vacation

Wednesday

Noon, Viewers Choice
 8 p.m., Independence Day
 Midnight, Independence Day

Thursday

Noon, Viewers Choice
 8 p.m., The Client
 Midnight, The Client

February 4th

Noon, Friday Night Lights
 8 p.m., Friday Night Lights
 Midnight, Friday Night Lights

Fire

Continued from Page 1

with them.

"We flew for about 15 minutes to the accident scene," said Sergeant Hartman. "The accident occurred when a vehicle carrying a family of seven Iraqis swerved while trying to pass a military convoy, causing a water truck in the convoy to stop abruptly. The vehicle directly behind the water truck could not stop in time and slammed into the back of the water truck."

The flatbed truck slammed into the water truck, sending its cargo, a 2 1/2 ton truck, hurling forward, completely crushing the cab and pinning the driver in the vehicle.

"I was the only one able to climb in the truck and start the extrication," said Sergeant Hartman. "Fortunately we were able to get the injured man out, although his arm was broken in two places, his foot was severely injured and I am sure he had some internal injuries."

The fire department has about 10 personnel who make up the Fire Flight Team. All members are required to have rescue certification and are hand selected by the fire chief.

"The mission these highly-skilled fire fighters perform is vital to both the local mission and that of the coalition forces. They are helping protect brave Americans and Iraqi Nationals as they deliver critical goods to our brothers up north," said Senior Master Sgt. Robert Appling, Chief, Fire Protection Flight.



Photo by Master Sgt. Terry Nelson

Fire Flight Team members; Staff Sgt. Ryan Boyd, Staff Sgt. Dave Frazier, Airman 1st Class Christopher Fochs and Staff. Sgt. Jack Hartman show the extrication equipment used during Fire Flights.

"I am glad that our fire chief has the confidence in us, and doesn't hesitate sending a Staff Sgt. or an Airman on a Fire Flight," said Sergeant Hartman. "It is nice to know they have trust and confidence in us."

Airman 1st Class Christopher Fochs, who went on the January 21, flight with Sergeant Hartman, is the youngest member of the Fire Flight Team.

Although he has been in the military less than two years, he has already completed his rescue certification and was hand picked by the assistant fire chief to be an integral part of the Fire Flight Team.

"I am honored and very fortunate to be se-

lected. This TDY has already been 100 percent better than I could have ever imagined said, Airman Fochs. "I didn't expect to be doing this and I am just glad to be able to be part of this team, it is something that I will never forget."

Staff Sergeants Dave Frazier and Ryan Boyd were called out to respond on a Fire Flight mission January 22.

"We boarded the helicopter and flew south for about 15 to 20 minutes and arrived on the scene of a gasoline truck accident. We touched down on the opposite side of the 4-lane highway and made our way over to the accident," said Sergeant Boyd.

"One gas truck had rear-ended another and flattened the passenger side of the vehicle, pinning the driver against the steering wheel and dashboard," said Sergeant Frazier.

"The roof was also caved in and the driver was obviously in serious pain. We were able to excavate him out, but he was pretty bad shape," he added.

Everyone on the Fire Flight Team has volunteered to deploy and is very happy to be part of the team.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Sergeant Boyd. "This is a great opportunity to work with the Army, a relatively new experience for me," said Sergeant Frazier.

"This is an opportunity to use some of our training we have received as fire fighters, and it's very rewarding to make a visible difference immediately and to see the results."

Today, Karate, Kenpo/Aikido
at 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, Strongman Competition
at 6 p.m.

Sunday, 5K Run, 2 Mile Walk
at 10 a.m.

Monday, Karate, Kenpo/Aikido
at 9 p.m.

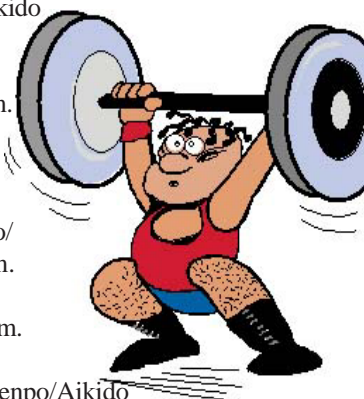
Tuesday, Tai Chi at 5:30 a.m.
Bench Press Competition
at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Karate, Kenpo/
Aikido at 9 p.m.

Thursday, Tai Chi at 5:30 a.m.

Feb. 4, Yoga at 5:30 a.m., Kenpo/Aikido
at 9:00 p.m.

Muscle Beach Events



ESVS Presents Just for fun



Tonight, Combat Bingo
at 7:30 p.m.
Hip Hot Night 9:30 p.m.
to 12:30 a.m. in the Big
Top

Saturday, Jenga at
8 p.m.

Sunday, Air Hockey at 8 p.m.

Monday, Ping Pong at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Open

Wednesday, Open

Thursday, Open

February 4th, Combat Bingo at
7:30, Hip Hot Night
9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the Big
Top

